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AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



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Do·ce·tism  (dō-sē tīz'əm, dō sə-tīz'əm)

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n.

The belief, especially associated with the Gnostics, that Jesus had no human body and only appeared to have died on the cross.

[Probably from Late Greek *Dokētai*, espousers of Docetism, from Greek *dokein*, to seem; see **dek-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Do·ce tist *n.*

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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